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1947.

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
Warrington Rural District Council



John Walker & Co., Ltd.,  
Bewsey Street, Warrington



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# WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Chairman:

Mr. A. S. BREWER .. .. Rixton-with-Glazebrook

## Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. J. P. PALIN .. .. Great Sankey

## Councillors:

Mr. T. FORSHAW, J.P.	..	..	Burtonwood.
Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P.	..	..	Cuerdley.
Mr. W. H. COTTRELL	..	..	Poulton-with-Fearnhead.
Mr. J. C. Warburton	..	..	Croft.
Mr. E. SMETHURST, J.P.	..	..	Winwick (St. Oswald's).
Mr. R. HANKINSON	..	..	„ (Houghton).
Mr. J. UPTON	..	..	Penketh.
Mrs. M. A. NICOL (from 6th May, 1947)	..	..	Woolston.
<div>Mr. R. RYDER</div>	..	..	Woolston.

## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health	..	..	Dr. J. CULLEN.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	..	..	Mr. W. A. MORRISON.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	..		Mr. S. REEVES. Mr. W. T. DITCHFIELD (from April, 1947).
Clerical and General Staff	..	..	Miss D. C. WILSON. Mr. F. A. SMITH. Mr. H. HIRST (from October, 1947).
Pupil Inspectors	..	..	Mr. A. MURRAY (resigned, August, 1947). Mr. L. FOXLEY (H.M. Forces). Mr. G. SIXSMITH (H.M. Forces).

# WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,  
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the Year 1947 as follows:—

## VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION :

The Registrar General's figure is 23,300.

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	18.8
Still Births—Legitimate .....	12
Illegitimate .....	Nil

There were 15 live Illegitimate Births.

Birth rate for England and Wales .....	18.8
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	9.8
Death rate per 1,000 for England and Wales .....	12.0
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live Births .....	56
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live Births for England and Wales .....	54
Deaths from Puerperal Fever .....	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

It is pleasing to report that no case of Diphtheria has occurred during this year. This work has received constant and regular attention.

The following figures indicate that the position is not unsatisfactory :—

Number of Children immunised under 5 years during 1947 ...	567
„ „ „ over 5 „ „ .....	40
„ „ receiving “Booster” injections during 1947 ...	142
Total .....	<hr/> 749

## GENERAL REMARKS

I have no particular remarks to add to the details dealt with in the Report and consider that, under the circumstances, the position during the year has been satisfactory.

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been low, with the exception of a large increase in the notification of Measles.

. . . . .

I wish to offer my grateful thanks and appreciation for the valuable and kindly co-operation of all the Council officials and their staffs.

I beg to remain,

Yours very faithfully,

JAS. CULLEN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## STATISTICS

Area (acres) .....	22,840
Estimated population—1947 .....	23,300
Number of inhabited houses .....	6,274
Rateable Value .....	£177,477
Sum represented by a 1d. rate .....	£663

## VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate .....	222	203	425
Illegitimate .....	9	6	15
Total .....	231	209	440
Still Births .....	6	6	12
Deaths .....	118	111	229

## POPULATION FOR BIRTH RATE AND DEATH RATE, 23,300

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth rate	Crude death rate	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total and still live births	
Mean of 5 years—							
1942-1946 ... ..	20.3	10.0	0.36	1.47	4.32	4.17	55
Year 1946 ... ..	19.8	9.6	0.43	1.66	4.40	4.25	68
1947 ... ..	18.8	9.8	0.30	1.58	2.27	2.21	56
Increase or decrease in 1947 on 5 years average							
1942-1946 ... ..	1.5	0.2	0.06	0.11	2.05	1.96	1
previous year ..	1.0	0.2	0.13	0.08	2.13	2.04	12

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES .....	118	111
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	4	3
Tuberculosis—other forms .....	—	—
Syphilis .....	—	—
Influenza .....	3	3
Measles .....	—	—
Polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis .....	—	—
Infec. encephalitis .....	—	—
Cancer—all forms .....	17	20
Diabetes .....	1	2
Intra-Cran : Vasc : lesions .....	7	12
Heart disease .....	29	32
Other circulatory diseases .....	6	4
Bronchitis .....	11	9
Pneumonia .....	5	5
Other respiratory diseases .....	—	2
Peptic ulcer .....	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	3	2
,, (2 years and over) .....	—	—
Appendicitis .....	—	—
Other digestive diseases .....	2	1
Nephritis .....	4	1
Puerperal sepsis .....	—	1
Other maternal causes .....	—	—
Premature birth .....	4	1
Other causes, at birth .....	6	1
Suicide .....	1	—
Road Traffic Act .....	3	—
Other violent causes .....	4	2
Other violence .....	8	9



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1947

There were 275 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified and the number removed to hospital. There were:—

DISEASE	Total cases of all ages	Age U.K.	1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital	C.M.H. Winwick	Non Civ.
Scarlet Fever .....	45	..	..	3	2	8	6	16	5	3	1	1	..	..	31	..	1
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	..
Measles .....	198	1	8	20	29	31	25	82	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	5
Whooping Cough .....	11	..	..	..	..	1	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	11	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	2	3	..	1	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever .	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dysentery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	..
Others .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Totals .....	275	1	10	23	32	40	34	108	6	5	4	4	3	5	39	12	10

## TUBERCULOSIS

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 .....	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25 .....	4	1	...	2	1	...	..	...
35 .....	2	..	...	...	1	1	...	...
45 .....	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 .....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	11	1	1	2	3	2	...	...
Grand Totals ..	12		3		5		..	

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER SUPPLY

The bulk of the area is supplied with a piped supply of water from the Warrington Corporation. A small area of the Cuerdley parish is supplied by the Liverpool Corporation.

Speaking generally, the supply is good, both as to quantity and pressure, but in parts of the parishes of Burtonwood, Croft and Rixton-with-Glazebrook some improvement is necessary. It is unfortunate in these days of soap rationing that the water is rather hard, but it was pleasing to note that during the very dry period the supply was fully maintained.

Some of the wells still in existence dried up during the very hot summer and supplies of drinking water had to be carried to the houses in question for very considerable distances. The problem of supplying isolated cottages, some of which are in poor structural condition, with a piped supply of water is very real, and it may be that when conditions are opportune it will be better policy financially to re-house the people and demolish the cottages rather than lay on a long supply main.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No change has taken place during the year in the treatment of sewerage. The old works at Burtonwood still continues to function, although it is so overloaded that the effluent cannot be said to have undergone any obvious treatment.

The small plant at Carlton Way, Glazebrook, similarly does not give a very satisfactory effluent.

Considerable progress has been made with the preparation of Sewerage Schemes for the parishes of Great Sankey, Penketh, Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston. The Penketh with Great Sankey scheme has been investigated by a firm of consulting engineers, but the other scheme is being compiled by the Surveyor's Department. It is to be hoped that within the not-too-distant future these schemes will be transferred from paper into fact.

The present state of affairs of both septic tanks and pail closets cannot be said to be satisfactory and any improvements in dealing with them must be regarded as of a temporary nature only, as they are a source of complaint which can only be eradicated by a complete change of system rather than one of method.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Without exception, it may be said that all rivers and streams in the district are polluted with sewage. The elimination of this pollution is obviously tied up with the previous subject, and no doubt a proper sewerage system for the whole district will produce a vast improvement in the present abominable condition of the rivers and streams in the district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1947

This position remains basically as at the end of 1946, as comparatively few conversions have been made. There still remain approximately 1,450 pail closets in the district.

## HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT

During this year the Infectious Disease Hospital at Newton-le-Willows was closed and, in the future, all cases of Infectious Disease will be treated at the Warrington Infectious Disease Hospital, Aikin Street, Warrington. For general cases, the hospitals available are the Warrington General Hospital and the Warrington Infirmary.

## DISINFESTATION

I am pleased to say that the number of houses requiring disinfestation has been very small, three houses only requiring treatment. The use of Insecticides, to which D.D.T. has been added, provides a good and fairly simple method of eradicating vermin. The D.D.T. crystals which are deposited remain lethal to newly-hatched vermin for some weeks, and one treatment usually results in the premises becoming free from vermin within a short time.



## DISINFECTION OF HOUSES

Disinfection after cases of Infectious Disease is principally confined to cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, etc. The usual treatment is to either spray the rooms applicable with formaldehyde or to use a formaldehyde vapour outfit. In cases of Tuberculosis and Diphtheria, the bedding is also steam-treated in the disinfector at the Warrington Infectious Disease Hospital. At each case of Infectious Disease, disinfectant is supplied free to the householder so that the premises may be washed with a solution of disinfectant.

## SCHOOLS

One of the most urgent sanitary needs in the area is the provision of satisfactory water closets at all the schools. It is essential that the rising generation should be fully cognisant of the advantages of modern sanitation and, when the Sewerage Schemes are complete in each district, it is to be hoped that the first conversions will take place at the schools. Fortunately, all the schools in the area are now provided with an adequate supply of water, a necessity which is even more desirable now that dinners are supplied at school.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

Two Offensive Trades are registered within the district and it is pleasing to note that comparatively few complaints have been received. Both premises are regularly inspected and numerous improvements have been carried out at each factory without recourse to formal action.

## FACTORIES

There are now 33 factories registered in the district and all are regularly inspected under the Factories Act, 1937. Several improvements have been carried out to the sanitary conveniences provided and, where necessary, the attention of the Factory Inspector has been drawn to any conditions coming within his jurisdiction. Particular attention has been paid to the canteens provided for the use of the employees at the larger factories in order to ensure that a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained in the storing, preparation and distribution of food.

It is essential that with communal feeding increasing, particularly at factory premises, scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene by the workers in the canteens themselves. Circulars have been sent to each of the canteen managers, giving them a list of "Do's" and "Dont's," and it is intended that this sphere of work shall be thoroughly pursued.

Constant attention is paid to the changes taking place in the internal arrangements of factory operation to make sure that the means of escape in case of fire are adequate. This work has been increased of late by the need for the separate storage of cellulose solutions.



## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Comparatively little camping takes place in the area, and the few caravans which are occupied have been licensed for two monthly periods and regularly inspected. No serious contravention of any sanitary requirements was observed. No sites have been licensed for camping generally.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

The collection of refuse is being carried out in the district partly by contract and partly by direct labour. In each instance, special type refuse collection vehicles are used. The collection of the contents of pail closets is a job which will never be satisfactory and the only way of dealing with this problem is the institution of a water-carriage system.

The disposal of refuse is by means of controlled tipping and although some difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient and suitable covering material for the several tips in the district, it is hoped that within the near future this problem will be overcome.

Considerable leeway will have to be made up in the covering of tips as, during the war years, much of this work had, of necessity, to be neglected.

Good progress is being made with the provision of dustbins and lavatory pails; the decision to renew these receptacles as a charge on the General Rate fund is a very progressive step and considerable improvement has taken place in the storage of refuse at private premises whilst awaiting collection. Supplies of dustbins and pails have been difficult, but gradually—by having a definite ordering system—a sufficient stock has been built up. In all cases dustbins supplied have been of British standard specification.

Total number of dustbins supplied .....	928
„ „ „ pails supplied .....	160

Salvage collections are gradually increasing—in the main, this being due to the provision of a trailer behind the vehicle concerned. It is obviously essential that the regular collection of salvage is the crux of this problem, and no doubt when this method can be introduced throughout the area much better figures will be obtained.

The totals of salvage collected and gross values are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper : 66 tons 9 cwts. 3 qrs. ....	424	16	2
Cartons : 670 (Small) .....	5	11	8
	<hr/>		
	£430	7	10
	<hr/>		

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

Work is proceeding under the Shops Act, 1934, and in several cases improvements have been effected by informal action.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

In each case of a nuisance being caused by the emission of excessive smoke, visits have been made to the factory concerned and the nuisance has been remedied without recourse to Statutory action. A large percentage of the trouble has been caused due to the use of unsatisfactory fuel and, where this has been the case, steps have been taken to ensure that a suitable supply of fuel is obtained.

### RODENT CONTROL

The early part of this year saw the completion of the special scheme inaugurated by the Ministry of Food for a detailed survey of the district with regard to any infestations by rats. Four operatives were employed on this work, which was completed to schedule by the 31st March, 1947. Good results were obtained from this survey and to continue the work one operative was retained. At the present time, all Local Authorities' properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., are regularly treated and, to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum, all complaints are investigated and private treatments are carried out at factory and business premises. Test-baiting of the sewers in the area was carried out, but very little evidence of rat infestation was discovered.

### HOME HELPS

This year has seen the development of a new service in the area. The scheme was started from scratch, and at the end of the year 25 part-time Home Helps were engaged on both maternity and domestic cases. Each case is investigated and regular visits are made to the home to ensure that satisfactory service is being given and to ensure that a suitable type of Home Help is delegated to each particular case. Great care is taken in the selection of women for this class of work as it is considered that unsatisfactory persons would do more harm to the service than good. Far more helps could have been engaged than those which have been involved, but it is considered that the quality of the service should be more important than the mere numbers of women engaged. A particular feature of the scheme at present is that Home Helps are working in every parish of the district with the exception of Winwick and Burtonwood, and it is to be hoped that the service may be extended to these parishes within the very near future.

Very many letters of gratitude have been received from patients, and many doctors have expressed their appreciation of this service.

### PETROLEUM ACTS

Several new installations for the storage of petroleum have been constructed, and it is anticipated that this number will increase as supplies of equipment become more plentiful. New draft regulations have been published by the Ministry for the more flame-proof construction of the service pumps, but they do not become operative for new installations until January, 1950, and for existing installations until 1st January, 1960.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspections of all cowsheds and dairies were carried out during the year and, where necessary, notices were served on the cow-keeper for the improvement of his premises.

Sampling was regularly carried out and milk was tested for B.Coli, B.Tuberculosis and by the Methylene Blue Test.

The following statistics indicate the position at the present time :—

Number of Producers registered .....	66
„ „ Retail Dairymen registered .....	21
„ „ Producers of Accredited Milk .....	15
„ „ Bacteriological samples taken .....	56
„ „ Samples unsatisfactory .....	19
„ „ Samples examined for T.B. Bacilli .....	16
„ „ Samples found to contain T.B. Bacilli .....	nil

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin-Tested Milk ...	2
„ „ „ „ Pasteurised Milk .....	4
„ „ Supplementary licenses .....	5

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Very little inspection of animals slaughtered for household consumption takes place as the general slaughtering is centralised in the Warrington County Borough. Wherever possible, pigs slaughtered for household consumption were inspected, but this work is made more difficult due to the scattered nature of the area. The following quantity of food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption but, wherever possible, materials were salvaged by the Ministry of Food Salvage Department :—

109 tins evaporated milk.	45 lbs. frozen rabbit.
4 „ „ apples.	10 „ „ frozen fish.
1 „ „ luncheon meat.	26 „ „ frozen mutton.
6 „ „ baked beans.	8 „ „ beef.
1 „ „ marmalade.	8 „ „ butter.
12 „ „ condensed milk.	4 „ „ brisket beef.
7 „ „ salmon.	12 ozs. canned beef.
1 „ „ mackerel.	70 lbs. haddock fillets.
3 „ „ Australian jam	2 tins spaghetti.
97 „ „ tomatoes.	792 „ „ grapefruit.
1 „ „ carrots.	13 „ „ stewed steak.
1 „ „ macaroni.	3 „ „ Irish stew.
1 „ „ runner beans.	4 „ „ pork sausage.
1 „ „ plums.	2 „ „ sausage meat.
4 „ „ peas.	1 „ „ steak pudding.
1 „ „ peaches.	2 „ „ potatoes.
1 „ „ fruit salad.	124 „ „ apricots.
6 „ „ golden syrup.	1 „ „ biscuits.



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the details of food samples under the above Act.

A total of 66 samples was obtained, 42 being of milk and the 24 others comprising :—

1 butter.	1 dried beans.	3 bread.
1 cooking fat.	1 oatmeal.	1 bread (brown).
1 margarine.	1 cocoa.	1 syrup.
4 sauce.	1 cocoa (starch reduced).	2 treacle.
1 dried peas.	4 camphorated oil.	1 chocolate.

In addition, three "appeal-to-cow" samples of milk were taken.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
One formal milk ...	Deficient 25 per cent. milk fat; low in solids-not-fat; normal freezing point.	Two "appeal-to-cow" samples taken and one found to be poor in fat; both low in solids-not-fat. Proceedings were not instituted. Cow-keeper notified.
One informal milk ...	Deficient 13 per cent. fat.	Further samples taken.
One formal milk ...	Deficient 3.5 per cent. solids-not-fat; contained 0.3 per cent. extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
One informal milk ...	Deficient 8.3 per cent. fat.	Farmer notified.
One formal milk ...	Deficient 8.3 per cent. solids-not-fat; contained 6 per cent. extraneous water.	Prosecution and Vendor fined £3 and 4 gns. costs.
One formal milk ...	Deficient 3.5 per cent. solids-not-fat; contained 2.6 per cent. extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
One cocoa (starch reduced) .....	Sample infested with mould.	"War-time pack." Old stock surrendered and destroyed.



# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS, 1947.

Water supply .....	27
Drainage .....	368
Stables and Piggeries .....	2
Offensive Trades .....	10
Fried Fish Shops .....	15
Dirty premises .....	17
Conversions to pails .....	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	19
Factories .....	38
Bakehouses .....	9
Petroleum .....	5
Refuse collection .....	259
,, disposal .....	216
Rats and Mice .....	45
Smoke observations .....	1
Schools .....	5
Shops Act .....	2
Defective pails .....	131
,, bins .....	670
Salvage .....	204
Licensed premises .....	1
" Home Helps " .....	7
Miscellaneous .....	35

## UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of houses inspected .....	312
Visits paid to above houses .....	766

## UNDER HOUSING ACTS

Number of houses inspected .....	1
Visits paid to above houses .....	88
Overcrowding—visits paid .....	3

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Number of houses inspected .....	3
Visits paid to above houses .....	3
Miscellaneous housing visits .....	803

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of I.D. ....	47
Visits re disinfection ....	68
Miscellaneous I.D. visits ....	8

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD

Butchers' shops ....	11
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ....	4
Cowsheds ....	81
Dairies and Milk shops ....	82
Ice-Cream premises ....	3
Restaurants ....	28
Street Vendors and Hawkers' carts ....	—
Farms ....	9



